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The Daily Gamecock, TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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Weather

TODAY
HIGH 73°



TONIGHT
LOW 49°



TOMORROW
HIGH 67°



Inside ▶▶▶

SPORTS



Redshirt freshman Reid McCollum looks to finally see some playing time at quarterback this season after a rough start.

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THE MIX



Movie reviewer Jimmy Gilmore tells you why four hours of "Che" is two hours too long.

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VIEWPOINTS

President Obama should spend less time on TV, more time in the Oval Office.

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DARREN PRICE
Third-year English student

Online Exclusive

VIEWPOINTS ONLINE

Habla espanol? Columnist Mandi Sordelet sees the importance in learning a second language with the United States as a melting pot.

THE MIX ONLINE

USC's 10th annual The Birdcage takes over the Russell House Ballroom tonight for BGLSA's exciting Creed Week event.

www.dailygamecock.com

Student Media deals with cuts

Board of Publications discusses proposed budget for four USC outlets

Josh Dawsey
STAFF WRITER

The sagging economy has hit Student Media, and the university might be losing its only student-produced magazine from the newsstands next year.

In a Board of Publications meeting Friday, Student Media Director Scott Lindenberg proposed turning Garnet & Black into an online-only publication. The move would save the university \$27,000 a year.

Lindenberg also proposed cutting one of two graduate assistant positions, slashing the budget for equipment and office supplies, cutting The Associated Press newswire and making other reductions to Student Media's budget.

"Media is in a really difficult position with newspaper closings across the country and magazines changing," Lindenberg said. "What we need to figure out is what should Student Media look like in one year, five years or even 10 years."

The Board of Publications, which governs Student Media, tabled the proposal until more information is available. Doug Fisher, a journalism school professor, said the board wasn't informed enough to make a decision.

"The Garnet & Black still might be moved to Web-only," he said. "But at that point, I simply asked for a detailed discussion or background of

the reasoning and what our other alternatives are. I don't like spur of the moment decisions. I'm not saying we won't have to do this, but I want to find out more."

Fisher, along with other board members, wants to hear other alternatives, including: returning The Daily Gamecock to a tri-weekly publication and making changes in WUSC and SGTV, the university's radio and television stations.

WUSC provides approximately \$13,000 a year to the university in advertising revenue, but the station used \$70,288 last year in university funding, Lindenberg said. SGTV doesn't provide any revenue to the university, but it used \$79,457 in university monies. G&B required \$85,078 in USC funding and The Daily Gamecock used \$74,694.

But The Daily Gamecock raised more than \$500,000 in advertising revenue, meaning only 10 percent of its budget came from the university, Lindenberg said.

Brad Maxwell, The Daily Gamecock editor-in-chief, said The Daily Gamecock shouldn't take the cut. Until 2006, the paper was only printed three days a week, and the changes were 99 years in the making.

"I think that The Daily Gamecock has worked really hard to get where it's at now," Maxwell said. "Five days a week used to be a dream, and still is a dream for a lot of collegiate newspapers."



Going five days a week has been a challenge, but it has had a significant impact on the study body."

Slashing The Associated Press newswire from The Daily Gamecock would save \$10,000 without cutting The Daily Gamecock's publication days, Lindenberg said.

"The Associated Press newswire is often used as a back-up when we don't have enough stories to put in the paper," Maxwell said. "It's a good way to inform our students about things we can't write about, which I think our students like to an extent."

Maxwell, a third-year print journalism student, said if The Associated Press newswire had to go, the newspaper would still be fine.

Lindenberg agreed with Maxwell, saying a reduction in The Daily Gamecock's production would be his least-favorite alternative.

But Justin Fenner, the G&B editor-in-chief, said the decision to make G&B the biggest target of the cuts is unfair.

"As a whole, the magazine is a better package now than it has been in its history," Fenner, a third-year print journalism student, said. "What the current proposal would do is to throw the Garnet & Black under the bus so that the rest of Student Media could thrive. The proposal doesn't jeopardize the existence of any other Student Media publications except for the Garnet & Black, which by and far,



Keri Goff / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Garnet & Black Magazine Editor-in-Chief Justin Fenner reviews final notes about the upcoming April issue.

has made the biggest strides this year. I think we should all have to sacrifice equally."

The budget crisis is simply a product of the sagging economy, Lindenberg said. In past years, The Daily Gamecock's advertising has enabled it to fund 90 percent of its budget costs. But this year, Lindenberg said he expects The Daily Gamecock to need \$84,000 more, leaving Student Media with a deficit.

In the April budget meeting, Fisher said the board hopes to find the best way for Student

Media to work together.

"You have to look at them as businesses, outlets of student creativity and valuable information sources for the campus," Fisher said. "And you have to find some kind of balance."

And while Maxwell said he hopes G&B isn't hurt, he said changes must be made.

"Student Media is being affected and we have to look out for the best in Student Media and students of the university. We're in the hole a good amount of money and it's got to come from somewhere."



Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu

Student Media Outlets

GAMECOCK Bike Festival

This week is USC's USC Bike-to-Campus week in which campus groups advocate riding bikes to classes. The second annual GAMECOCK Bike Festival continues through the next two months with many different activities:

Today

Free bike repairs, bike registration, local bike information
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Greene Street

Wednesday

Panel discussion with Gerry Lynn Hall (Bike Columbia) and Rachel Kefalos (Palmetto Cycling Coalition)
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Green Quad Learning Center

Riding tour of campus
4 p.m.

In front of McKissick Museum on the Horseshoe (helmets required)

Banff Mountain Film Festival
7 p.m.
Russell House Theater

Thursday

Cyclecocks: Cycling Club Road Ride
5 p.m.
RH

April 2 through May 28

Free Bike Valet at Five Points Concert Series
Thursdays, 6 to 10 p.m.
By the Five Points fountain

The event is hosted by USCycle, The Green Quad, Healthy Carolina, Cyclecocks Campus Wellness, Student Government, Vehicle Management and Parking Services and Law Enforcement and Safety.

— Compiled by News Editor Liz Segrist

Students against possible Café Verde closing

Sodexo says no decision as of now, regulars petition to keep doors open

Meagean Dugger
STAFF WRITER

University students and Café Verde regulars have been signing a petition for the past two weeks after speculation that the West Quad eatery could be shutting down.

More than 100 students signed the petition on the first night, with others still signing daily, and some even said they would picket for Café Verde to stay in business.

Café Verde and Bates are the only USC dining facilities open nightly on the west side of campus, and many students said they find Café Verde more convenient for dinner on the go. The small restaurant also offers convenience and grocery items available for purchase with Carolina Cash.

Michael Scheffres, the Sodexo general manager, said he could not comment on the closing of Café Verde and that no decision has been made.

"I can't comment yet because we just started talking about it," Scheffres said. "We just haven't decided."

Sweet Dunlap, the Café Verde manager, said he knows as little as the students who visit.

"I didn't hear too much from management," he said. "They just keep saying a decision hasn't been made yet. I asking my supervisor just now, and even she doesn't know anything because she hasn't heard from her supervisor."

Dunlap said although he has another job, he enjoys working at the café and does not want to see it close.

"I enjoy working here and I know other employees enjoy working here too," Dunlap said. "It's a great place to come and enjoy your food."

Café Verde specializes in pizza, pasta and subs, and is open Monday through Thursday 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. The café also offers call-ahead ordering for faster service.

John Ridgeway, a first-year biology student, said he would boycott other USC dining services.

"I would just starve," he said. "I get tired of Russell House and Bates, Café Verde is all I eat."

Ridgeway said the fact that he is close to



Fabio Frey / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Employees prepare sandwiches for students Monday night at Cafe Verde.

the employees makes the potential closing especially hard.

"We talk every night," Ridgeway said. "They usually know what I want right when I walk in the door."

Other students share the same attitude.

Sarah Jordan, a first-year hotel, restaurant and tourism management student, said she will probably not eat USC dining if Café Verde closed.

"It's a convenient location," Jordan said. "It's right where I park so I eat here all the time. If it closes, I'll probably just eat Wendy's."

Corey Dorey, a first-year business student, said he has heard of Café Verde's closing and believes the closing would be a mistake for university dining services.

"Café Verde shouldn't close," he said. "It's the only place on campus that actually cares about the customers and the food they serve."

Although Café Verde's largest customer population is regulars, Dunlap said he sees new faces every day.

"We get new students who haven't been here before, and they become regular customers every day," Dunlap said. "As for now, keep coming out and enjoying the food as long as it lasts."

Naquan Moran, a Café Verde employee, said he agrees with Dunlap.

"It's a nice environment to work in and we've got great people who come in," Moran said.

Moran said he loves his job and believes Café Verde is the superior dining service on campus.

"Our location is great and I'm hoping we'll do great in competition in the future. We let students freestyle and customize their food," he said. "I really don't want to leave."

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu

CAROLINA BRIEFS

- USC will host the Healthy Carolina Farmers Market today. The market will be open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in front of the Russell House between the gates on Greene Street. The market will feature local produce, meats, cheeses and flowers. Cash payment is due to the farmer at time of purchase. Please feel free to bring a cooler for the purchase of cold items such as meats, cheeses and eggs.
- A Udall Scholarship Workshop will be Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the Gressette Room, Harper College for rising sophomores and juniors interested in the environment or Native Americans and Alaska Natives interested in health-care or tribal public policy. Contact Jennifer Collins at (803) 777-0958.
- The USC School of Music invites anyone to the spring concert performance of the USC Symphonic and Concert Bands March 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Koger Center for the Performing Arts. Featured selections to include: "The BSO Forever" March; Leonard Bernstein Suite of Old American Dances; Robert Russell Bennett Bum's Rush; Donald Grantham Overture for Band and John Heins. Admission is free.

Q & A WITH
STUDENT LEADER OF THE
Week

Jennifer Elliott, an international student advisor, has worked for USC for three years.

Q: What's your favorite thing about USC?

A: It's a really active campus. I really enjoy that there's always so much going on and that there's such a diverse student body.

Q: What's the best part about your job?

A: I think the contact with so many students from everywhere, from all over the world.

Q: What did you want to be when you were little?

A: I think that changed every year the whole time I was growing up. I never had one dedicated profession.

Q: If you could travel anywhere tomorrow, where would you go?

A: There are so many places. I guess if I could go anywhere tomorrow, I'd go with Turkey.

PIC OF THE DAY



Keri Goff / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Alejandro Florez, a fourth-year marketing student, DJs for the show Rooftop Underground on WUSC radio. Rooftop Underground airs Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m.

Local

A state agency that represents utility customers has asked federal officials to review steep increases in the cost of transporting coal that could lead to higher electric bills for many South Carolina residents.

Railroad companies that deliver coal to a number of South Carolina Electric & Gas and Progress Energy power plants are charging 50 percent to 100 percent more this year after their long-term contracts expired, said Dukes Scott, the Regulatory Staff State Office executive director.

National

WILLOW, Alaska — Alaska's Mount Redoubt volcano erupted five times overnight, sending an ash plume more than nine miles into the air in the volcano's first emissions in nearly 20 years.

Residents in the state's largest city were spared from falling ash, though fine gray dust was falling Monday morning on small communities north of Anchorage. The ash began falling around daybreak and continued into midmorning. They were supposed to end by noon.

"It's coming down," Rita Jackson, 56, said early Monday morning.

World

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's government on Monday offered \$2 million each for information leading to the arrest of 24 top drug lords in a public challenge to the cartels' violent grip on the country.

The list indicated that drug gangs have splintered into six main cartels under pressure from the U.S. and Mexican governments. The two most powerful gangs — the Sinaloa and Gulf cartels — each suffered fractures that have given rise to new cartels, according to the list published by the Attorney General's Office.

— The Associated Press

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Blood, sweat,
tears behind
every edition

The Daily Gamecock
full of hardworking,
dedicated students

Let me tell you about some of the most dedicated and hardworking students at USC. They aren't university athletes. They aren't complete bookworms. They are your Daily Gamecock staff.

Publishing a newspaper five days a week is like herding cats. Each of the paper's four sections set stories for the week and line up the assignments with their writers, often a week in advance or sometimes



CAM BYRD
Fifth-year
public
relations
student

last minute news and sports games. Depending on other students for (publishable) material can be a real nerve-racking experience. Why so tough? Deadlines and reading through all the articles or columns to edit begin with the section editors. That's right. They are giving up their nightly free time to inform the campus and produce a tradition more than a century old. But they kind of have it good. Get all that done, spruce up their section by consulting with the page designers and call it a night. By the way it's around midnight, sometimes until 2 a.m. or later, and they've been there since 5 p.m. And they do this two, sometimes three, times a week.

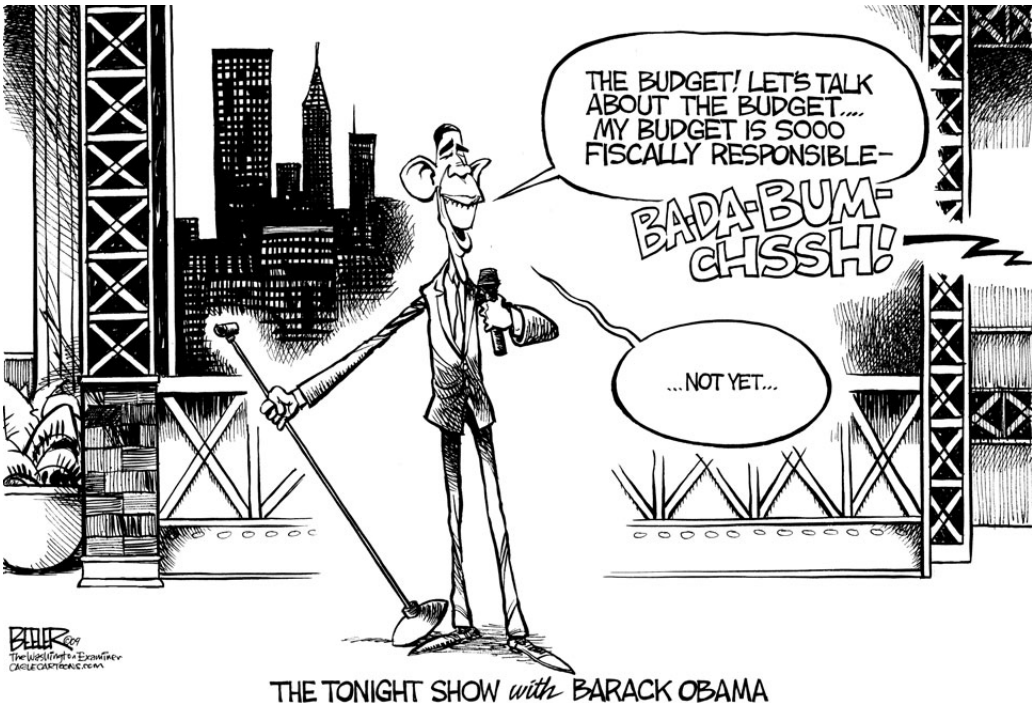
At 5:30 p.m. page designers come in along with the copy editors (who edit EVERYTHING and write headlines). Every day there is a new page design for every section and every day the copy editors' fine-tooth comb goes over the entire paper to check for grammatical errors, mechanical errors or too many spaces after a period. Tough stuff if you read more than five pieces a night and can't stop thinking about the statistics midterm from hell tomorrow that you yet have to study for.

Every time a mistake goes to print, they instinctively kick themselves for not catching it. Face it, they do a darn good job when most of us can hardly edit our own papers for class. These folks, both designers and copy editors, work until 11 p.m. or on delayed nights, 1 a.m. or later. They also work two to three times a week.

Remember they are students like you and me from a number of majors. They are involved outside the paper. They have lives and are not the yearbook kids from your high school.

The first time I sat in the office and followed a night of production, I was astounded at everything simultaneously taking place and the huge undertaking it is to manage the entire lot of staffers and contributors. Everything that leads to the final product you pick up is a careful and planned process, like an engine set to be drag-raced down a track.

I bet you didn't know The Daily Gamecock is a top student newspaper in South Carolina and the Southeast. Take some time to read the paper, not just scribble the crossword. More importantly acknowledge the time, effort and sacrifice the staff puts forth every day. Writing a letter to the editor and using the comment boards on www.dailygamecock.com brings the process full circle, but simply reading the paper - that's a good place to start.



I AM CAROLINA (AND SO CAN YOU!) Primetime not Obama-time

President should spend
less time on TV, keep
to executive office duties

Does anybody else think that our new president is a little bit of a ham?

Now before all the Obama-philes come to my apartment window with torches and pitchforks in hand, think about the number of times President Obama has been on television since he was inaugurated on Jan. 20.

In the past week alone, Obama has appeared on two national programs — “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno” on March 19 and “60 Minutes” Sunday — for one-on-one interviews. He has even been featured several times on ESPN to discuss everything from the Super Bowl to his March Madness picks.

And let's not forget about his frequent televised public addresses, the most recent of which forced my favorite show, CBS's “How I Met Your Mother,” to be pushed back three weeks.

While I understand media exposure is good, it is starting to get ridiculous. The man is the most covered person on the face of the planet. Should he really be setting up interviews and appearances on prime time news programs?

Yes, he is a national icon that is a cross between JFK and Superman and, according to ESPN, has a cross-up worthy of a Top-10 highlight. But there should be more to the president's Thursday night agenda than shooting the dirt with Jay Leno for twenty minutes — at least I hope there is more to it than that.

Obama has had the cameras on him since the Democratic National Convention in 2004, and we saw his face everywhere as the presidential election drew near. When Senator Obama became President-elect Obama, every one and their mother covered him. All other news essentially stopped so news outlets could cover his every syllable and facial twitch of his inauguration. Unlike any other president in American history, being sworn in as the most important man in the world should have brought Obama a little bit of privacy.

Not so for this American President, however. Instead of taking refuge in repairing the severely slumping economy or pulling our troops out of middle eastern quagmires, he decided to schedule two sit-downs and a national address in the same week. Throw in his bracket choices and analysis on ESPN, and you have to wonder how many of his executive duties he is neglecting.

At least we know that his PR and media staff stays busy, especially after the controversy his Special Olympics comment on Leno and his laughing on “60 Minutes” drew up on the celebrity blogs.

Don't think I dislike President Obama. He was the best man for the job, and I have a lot of faith in him as president. I also know that approval rating stays high if he stays personal. But seriously, he has got to find other ways to pass his time besides appearing on TV.

So please, Mr. President — leave Leno for the self-important reality TV stars, “60 Minutes” for the meth addicts and the basketball analysis for Stephen A. Smith and Jay Bilas. We need you to be our president — not our entertainment.

Say ‘thank you’ to smokers

New state cigarette tax
will raise needed funds
for health insurance

Well, I never thought I'd say this, but hooray for smokers.

Yes, that's right, I am condoning smoking. Make no mistake, I still despise the habit, but since the 50 cent-a-pack tax increase looks like it's finally going to pass this year, I say, full speed ahead Marlboro lovers.

South Carolina has historically had the lowest cigarette taxes in the nation, a statistic that was almost changed last year when the House and Senate approved a 50-cent increase. However, there was disagreement over how the money should be spent and so the House could not override Gov. Mark Sanford's veto.

This year, all that is subject to change with the new plan modeled after Oklahoma's federal match plan, which uses the extra

money to help low-income or high-risk residents obtain health insurance.

Currently, the average price of a pack of cigarettes in South Carolina is \$3.21. With a 62-cent federal tax increase and the proposed 50-cent tax increase, that price could jump to \$4.33 per pack. That would lead to \$147 million dollars that the state could raise for families with an annual income of \$44,000 or less. It forms a sort of irony, you might say. Smokers can pay for their health insurance by buying the very stuff that puts them at risk for health issues. I like it, in any case.

It is no secret the South is a region that heavily favors its tobacco. Since the crackdown on smoking bans, there has been much controversy as to the rights of smokers. Some people believe that they should not be discriminated against because of their smoking preferences. I expect this tax hike to elicit more angry responses from citizens, but I also believe that the purpose of this increase could not be more virtuous. A modern-day Robin Hood principle, this tax takes

advantage of one of South Carolina's more popular vices and uses it to help the less fortunate. This is a wonderful alternative to solving the state budget crisis and lowering the assault on clean air.

Some state revenue will also be allocated to helping people quit smoking, a service that is not currently provided or supported by any state money. So smokers can think of the tax not only as “club dues,” but another incentive to quit altogether. And this way, they already have a down payment for their support groups.

So fellow nonsmokers, let us all try to be a little more accepting. When we see someone lighting up in a no-smoking zone, let's not rush to inform them of the law. When we see a pregnant mother-to-be puffing on her thrice-daily cigarette, let's not judge her. When a fellow student walking to class blows smoke in our faces, let us not be vexed. After all, these are the people who are giving us the greatest service money can buy — and trust me, they are paying a lot of money.

The Daily Gamecock

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IN OUR OPINION

Despite poor outlook, news media important

Going to lecture in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications can be a little like going to church to hear about brimstone and fire.

Students in the J-School know what we are talking about. Professors in journalism classes constantly stress the garish job market and industry outlook every day, and students

“Remember to
think about the
print media as in
transition.”

than any other trades.

Yes, to many, it may look like mass media's doomsday is near. It has even hit USC Student Media, where both The Daily Gamecock and the Garnet & Black are being considered for cutbacks. The Daily Gamecock could go back to being a tri-weekly publication, and the Garnet & Black could cease to exist in its print incantation. Don't forget, the Garnet & Black is your only chance at a student yearbook.

For those of you who are wondering why you should care about what happens to the newspapers, consider this. Newspapers are the most comprehensive and in-depth way to be informed about current events. If the university didn't have The Daily Gamecock, many, if not most, students would know little of what was going on in their community.

So as what seems like a journalistic apocalypse nears, remember to think about the print media as being in transition, and not on its way to extinction. Dailygamecock.com and garnetandblack.com are only a click away, and look to be the way of future media. Many of those 120 papers that stopped production still have online editions. Even if you don't see this or any other paper in newsstands, you can still see the news — online.

CORRECTIONS

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu.

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock's Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community. All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via e-mail to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length and include the author's name, year

in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author's name and position. Guest columns are limited to three per author per semester.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

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The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published daily during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Daily Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper's parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is supported in part by student-activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from the Department of Student Media.

“Humor is merely tragedy standing on its head with its pants torn.”
— Irvin S. Cobb

‘Che’ meticulous, not always compelling

Lengthy film provides comprehensive look into Guevara’s life, involvement in revolution

Jimmy Gilmore
STAFF WRITER

Che

Director: Steven Soderbergh
Starring: Benicio del Toro

★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆☆

Spread over two separate films totaling more than four hours in runtime, “Che,” the meticulous look inside famed revolutionary Che Guevara’s career as a guerilla soldier in Cuba and Bolivia, is something of a marvel in its intense historical reconstruction, but also suffers from a grandiose fatigue that keeps it from being a totally absorbing experience.

Director Steven Soderbergh (“Traffic”) helms both halves, and Benicio del Toro stars as the Argentine doctor. Part One follows Guevara as part of Fidel Castro’s army in the Cuban Revolution of the late 1950s. The film is also fractured around Guevara’s 1964 trip to New York City to address the United Nations.

Part One is the more satisfying two hours, allowing the juxtaposition of Che’s political address and the militant operation to create simultaneous undercurrents that provide terrific insight into the principles and importance of the Cuban Revolution.

The photography in the U.S. segments is choppy and in black and white, while the Cuba scenes are drenched in gorgeous vistas and shots that reinforce the idea of the revolution as a communal act.

Part Two picks up almost 10 years later as Guevara leaves Cuba to go underground in Bolivia and lead a team of revolutionary guerillas. Here the film gets out of Che’s head and slowly

separates from its subject to capture the almost torturously mundane trek through the Bolivian mountains.

What was gorgeous and breathtaking in Part One becomes dangerous and brutal as Soderbergh shifts styles completely, using a handheld camera to create an almost-documentary precision of the life of a guerilla soldier.

Del Toro is powerful and commanding as he channels Guevara, rarely overstating himself and trying to find a naturalistic and often humane way to express the controversial figure’s ideology.

He slides deep behind Che’s messed hair and thick beard, disappearing beneath his own skin to create an effortless portrait. In the more breathtaking jungle scenes it rarely feels like he’s performing as Guevara, but rather trying to live his experiences.

Sadly, the rest of the film feels like a real labor. A passionate labor, an artistic labor, but one that nevertheless threatens to dilute the story’s accumulating, tragic impact as Soderbergh’s massive attention to detail and technical prowess threaten to eclipse his storyline.

The massive runtime both helps and hurts the film. Devoting the entire four hours makes clear the complementary nuances and parallel developments between the two halves. And yet, it’s hard not to feel the uneven tedium of some segments.

Taking a more anthropological and militantly oriented approach, Soderbergh comes out with a startlingly in-depth look at guerilla warfare.

“Che” is, at the very least, a profoundly interesting picture, one of Soderbergh’s most unique in years. What exactly it wants to be profound about, however, gets less and less clear as it inches along. Even with all its detail, ripped directly from the revolutionary’s diaries, Peter Buchman’s screenplay is still a bit fuzzy on what it wants to say about its subject.

“Che” is interesting but rarely engaging, engrossing but not often compelling, epic in scope but hollow at its center, a thoroughly detailed and yet totally uneven film.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@sc.edu



Courtesy of Laura Bickford Productions

Benicio del Toro stars as Che Guevara in director Steven Soderbergh’s new film about the iconic revolutionary.

GEEKING OUT WITH JOSH CALL

8 Reasons To Buy a Netbook

You may have seen these things popping up around campus here and there: little laptops that look like you could fit them in your pocket, or at least your pocketbook. Ridiculously small: what I first thought when I saw them. My next thought: they must be outrageously expensive. Actually, they aren’t. In the past year, a new kind of computer has been created. If you don’t know about it, it’s time you heard. Netbooks

are the next big thing and they are revolutionizing the computing market. Here are eight reasons why:

1. They’re small. For a long time laptop companies have tried to make

bigger laptops with larger screens and more spread out keyboards. What is the point of a laptop like that? My HP Pavilion Entertainment PC, with its whopping 16-inch screen may be good for watching movies, but it’s impossible to carry to class. On the other hand, netbooks run in two sizes: small (10 inches) and super small (8.9 inches). That’s small enough to fit in most purses. Sure the tiny keyboard takes some getting used to, but it’s totally worth the looks you get when you pull it out of your pocket.

2. They’re cheap. Before, laptop companies were trying to cram just as much pow-

erhouse hardware into the small laptops as they were in the large ones. This created the ridiculous notion that you have to pay more for the smaller laptops. The Sony Viao Ultra-portable laptop costs about \$2,000. Last year, Taiwanese company Asus finally set it right: they put the cheaper components into the smaller package. The average price of a netbook is \$400, and dropping.

3. They’re functional. Just because they are cheap doesn’t mean they don’t work. The computer companies have been fooling us for a long time into thinking we need more computer power and better software than we actually do in an effort to keep us paying high prices and forcing us to constantly upgrade. But what do you actually need on your computer? If you’re like me, all you need is a simple office suite and an internet browser. If you’re the kind of person who wants to play games or make art, why are you trying to do that on a laptop? Instead of using the new flashy and hardware intensive operating systems, these carry the lightweight Windows XP or Linux which run great — just as they have for years. Most netbooks have a quicker boot time and run nearly as well as most larger laptops.

4. They bring you into “the cloud.” The principle behind cloud computing is that you can access everything you need — data, e-mail, instant messengers, documents — anywhere and anytime you’re at a computer. The netbook is a cloud computer. To keep them small, most of these netbooks run with Solid-State Disks (basically flash drives instead of hard disks) with only eight gigabytes or so of memory. Chances are your iPod has more memory. But that’s the point. They are called netbooks because they are meant to let you hook up to the net. Who needs to store anything on a computer? You can save your documents on Google Docs, chat it up on Meebo, get your music at Last.fm or Pandora, and your videos from YouTube or Hulu. Everything you need can be done with a browser, and the netbook is your portal.

5. They’re light. They average 2.5 pounds. Most laptops weigh two or three times that. Needless to say, it is a very light portal.

6. The power lasts forever. Nothing is worse than sitting in the middle of class taking notes only to have your battery die on you. Then you have to wait till after class (missing all those important notes!) to hunt for an outlet and wait for it to charge. With a netbook, because they cut out all the unnecessary hardware and have a smaller screen, a simple six-cell battery can last up to six to eight hours without a charge. That’s plenty to get

you through class.

7. All the best brands have them. When Asus originally released the first netbook at the end of 2007, everyone thought they were crazy. Who wanted little cheap computers? The question is now, who doesn’t? Every major manufacturer has followed suit and released their own small netbooks below \$500. Except, of course, our friends over at Apple.

8. They are cute. I mean, have you seen the little guys? Come on, who can resist that?

So go ahead and check them out online. The current bestsellers are the Asus Eee, the Acer Aspire One (which I recently bought for my fiancé) and the HP Mini Note. They all start at \$300. So if you were holding off on a new computer because your wallet is getting light, no need to wait now.



Josh Call / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Netbooks provide many of the same benefits to students without the bulk of a regular laptop computer.



JOSH CALL

Third-year interdisciplinary studies student

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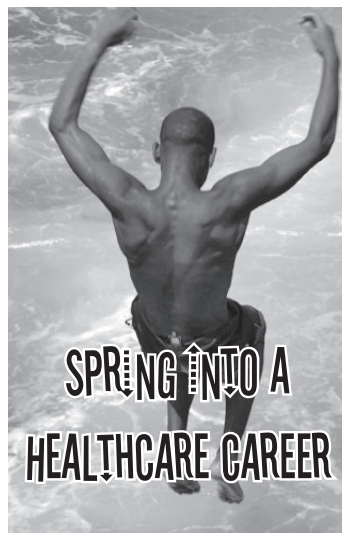
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
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
ARIES Find a quiet place to hide out and contemplate your situation. Take along plenty of paper and pencils so you can draw up your ideas.




TAURUS Your friends keep you motivated, inspired and laughing. Get together to brainstorm. One great idea leads to another, over and over again.




GEMINI New opportunities are opening up for the next couple of days. Some involve tasks you've never done before. This is not a problem.



CANCER Get out of your cage and fly around a little bit. You should be pretty sick of your regular routine by now. Keep your eyes open for treats to take back to the ones who stayed behind.




LEO This "having fun" thing suits you just fine. You could make it into a career. Don't waste your resources, however. That can cut your trip short.



VIRGO There are some things you have to hire done, but it can be a frustration. Of course, you could do it better yourself, if you were three people.



LIBRA Focus on your work with enthusiasm. You can get more done in one day than you have in the previous week. Well, maybe not all by yourself.




SCORPIO You can make time in your busy day for something your sweet-heart wants. Find out what it is, if you don't already know.




SAGITTARIUS A disruption at home causes you to make a tough decision. Don't pitch a fit if this isn't quite the timing you had in mind.



CAPRICORN You're a quick study and amazingly inventive now. Develop your skills and you can save a lot. Besides, you'll have a marvelous sense of satisfaction and self-confidence.



AQUARIUS Some costs are higher than expected. Other things you'll get on sale for unbelievable discounts.



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Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

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7:30 p.m., \$8 under 21/\$5 over
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

CAROLINE, OR CHANGE
8 p.m., \$14
Workshop Theater, 1136 Bull St.


VERSEWORKS OPEN MIC NIGHT
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Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

03/24/09

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ACROSS

- 1 Chocolate coffee
- 6 Pay figure
- 10 Cartoonist Addams
- 14 Welded
- 15 Aphrodite's boy
- 16 Strip of a lattice
- 17 Fish farms
- 19 Blues great James
- 20 Doctrines
- 21 Glossy fabric
- 22 Off the boat
- 25 Three consecutive goals
- 27 Hot spring
- 28 Ambulance grp.
- 30 Nearby things
- 31 Recent walkers
- 33 Truly!
- 35 Full of worthless stuff
- 38 Golfer Mediate
- 40 A-Team guy
- 42 Pianist Blake
- 43 In heaven
- 45 Tempe sch.
- 47 Chinawood oil
- 48 Fund a fellowship
- 50 Grad. degree
- 52 Wornout piece of cloth
- 53 Carolina cape
- 56 Martina of tennis
- 58 Pixelike
- 59 Caspian sturgeon
- 61 Settlement
- 62 Female pharaoh
- 66 750 in letters
- 67 Cinema pooch
- 68 TV journalist Frank
- 69 On the Aegean
- 70 Fired off
- 71 Hebrew letter

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Solutions from 03/23/09

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A	R	B	I	T	R	A	L	R	A	C	E	D		
D	E	E	M	S	D	I	G	I	N	H	U	B		
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41 Recipe meas.

44 90 degrees from vert.

46 Yep

49 "___ Cannonball"

51 Abridged version

53 Hopper of gossip

54 McCowen and Guinness

55 Fracas

57 Backs of necks

60 Future D.A.'s exam

62 Possesses

63 987-65-4321 grp.

64 Sturm ___ Drang

65 You, to Yves



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Sudoku By The Mephram Group 03/24/09

9	1	7			8		4	
		2						
				6				5
		9	2	6				8
2	4					5	3	
6			3		4	7		
7				8				
						5		
	2		9			3	8	1

Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 03/23/09

9	8	7	2	6	1	5	4	3
1	5	4	3	7	8	2	6	9
3	6	2	9	5	4	8	1	7
5	9	1	6	2	7	4	3	8
6	4	3	5	8	9	1	7	2
7	2	8	4	1	3	6	9	5
4	7	5	8	3	6	9	2	1
2	3	9	1	4	5	7	8	6
8	1	6	7	9	2	3	5	4

McCollum overcomes odds

Freshman quarterback gets past personal issues, sets sights on playing time

Jonathan Battaglia
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Even after a two hour-long practice, Reid McCollum was the last player off the field last Friday evening, a sign of assurance to a team that once questioned his commitment to them. The redshirt freshman quarterback, a former standout at Summerville High School, has overcome a tumultuous beginning to college to become the likely backup to sophomore Stephen Garcia. After an illustrious high school career alongside Summerville graduate and University of Georgia receiver A.J. Green, McCollum enrolled at USC last January after graduating early, but returned home only two weeks later following the deaths of two people close to him.

Ex-Summerville assistant coach Louis Mulkey, whom McCollum credits with helping him develop as a quarterback, was killed responding to a Charleston fire in June 2007. Then in October his former high school girlfriend, Cassidy Pendley, was one of the six USC students killed in a beach house fire in the Ocean Isle tragedy.

After returning to the university in July, McCollum was redshirted amid a crowded group of quarterbacks that included former starters Chris Smelley and Tommy Beecher. Now, following the transfers of Smelley and Beecher, McCollum finds himself as the current favorite to backup starting sophomore quarterback Stephen Garcia, according to



COURTESY OF THEBIGSPUR.COM

Redshirt freshman quarterback Reid McCollum works with the offense during a recent spring practice at the Bluff Road Proving Grounds. McCollum is listed as second team on the most recent depth chart.

coach Steve Spurrier.

“Reid’s performed pretty well,” Spurrier said after Saturday’s scrimmage. “Probably today he’d be the second guy.”

Playing against a majority of the defensive starters in the spring’s first scrimmage, McCollum led a 70-yard drive down the field, culminating in a touchdown pass across the back of the endzone to sophomore wideout Matt Clements. McCollum said the experience of practicing with the first and second teams has matured him as a player.

“I feel like I’m throwing the ball good,” McCollum said on his fourth day of spring practice.

“Getting in there with the first group, second group ... just to get in there and get the experience is a big help.”

Helping McCollum with his progress is G.A. Mangus, a quarterback at the University of Florida under Spurrier from 1988 to 1991. After joining the coaching staff in January, Mangus has helped McCollum and the other five quarterbacks on the roster learn a complicated offense.

“He’s been through it, he’s played under Spurrier,” McCollum said. “Just because he’s been there and played in the system, it makes a big difference

because it’s someone to lean on that really knows what’s going on.”

Despite his progress, when asked if he’s ready to be an SEC starting quarterback, McCollum admits he’s not yet prepared. Following a practice last Friday, Spurrier said he was impressed by McCollum’s progress, but agrees that he needs more instruction.

“Reid just needs a full spring and summer learning the offense,” Spurrier said. “He’s a good passer, he just needs time and training.”

Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu

Downey needs one more year

First Team All-SEC point guard should break away from traditional early exits of Gamecock athletes

The success of the Gamecock basketball team was in no way brought about by any one individual, but we all know one player has been a consistent catalyst since his arrival in Columbia.

For those of you that don’t know the background for Devan Downey’s collegiate career, here’s a brief synopsis.



JAKE LUCE
Fourth-year sport and entertainment management student

South Carolina’s Mr. Basketball in 2005 was recruited by the Cincinnati Bearcats and played his freshman year there in arguably the most difficult conference — the Big East.

He earned a spot on the Big East All-Rookie team but his Bearcats failed to make it to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 15 years and eventually lost to South Carolina in the quarterfinals of the National Invitational Tournament.

The impressive freshman decided to transfer because Cincinnati fired the head coach who recruited him just weeks before the start of the season. Though he considered more prominent basketball programs like Wake Forest and Florida, Downey eventually decided to stay closer to his home in Chester, which is just an hour north of Columbia.

After sitting out a year due to NCAA regulations for transfer athletes, the 5-foot-9-inch guard had an immediate impact for the Gamecocks.

In his first season in the SEC, Downey led the team in points, steals and assists and was selected to be a member of First Team All-SEC. He was also a finalist for the Cousy Award, given to the nation’s top point guard.

This year, Downey once again led the team in the same three categories and continued to grow as a playmaker and clutch three-point shooter.

Despite all of his accomplishments, it is evident that the rebirth of South Carolina basketball is not finished and that Downey’s collegiate career will not be complete without one more year under head coach Darrin Horn.

Though there are likely some individuals who wouldn’t consider Downey to be an NBA Draft prospect this year, I could almost guarantee that there are professional agents trying to push him towards the draft on a weekly basis.

There have been far too many examples in recent history about successful Gamecock athletes heading to either the NBA or NFL drafts before graduation because they were convinced it was the right decision



Sam Bennett / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Junior point guard Devan Downey urges the students on during South Carolina’s game against Ole Miss at the Colonial Life Arena.

financially.

Many former Gamecocks, from Sidney Rice to Emanuel Cook, could have benefited from just one more year in the collegiate ranks. Not only would they have had another year to modify and improve their athletic ability for the NFL, but they also would have likely increased their draft status and potential payout by staying in college for just one more year.

It is understandable for athletes who have been waiting their whole life to play professional sports to want to make their dream come true as soon as possible. On the other hand, it would likely be more rewarding to athletes, barring any unforeseen injury, to spend one more year being celebrities on their respective campuses.

Though Downey may be pushing 22 years old and has already been in college for four years, his job at USC is not done. As fans we can only hope that this local celebrity will heed the advice of intelligent and talented athletes such as linebacker Eric Norwood who have decided to delay the lure of professional sports to accomplish the personal and team goals that were set at the beginning of their collegiate careers.

Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu



Club football looks to kick off at Carolina

Team reaches preliminary stages of establishment

James Kratch
STAFF WRITER

Thousands, maybe millions, dream of putting on the garnet and black and running through the smoke and onto the field at Williams-Brice Stadium on an autumn day with “2001” blaring through the loudspeakers as 80,000 people explode in applause for Carolina. For most, this is never a reality, as 95 percent of football players’ careers end in high school.

Soon that will change on campus, as those who aren’t currently in the football program but still yearn to take to the gridiron will have their shot thanks to a USC club football team currently in the preliminary stages of establishment.

“There are a lot of players around this university that have the talent and drive to play college football, but are simply not given a chance to use their ability,” said club president Derek Lair.

With this in mind, Lair hopes to build the club team up to a point where it could be considered a sort of unofficial feeder for the USC football program, a place where Steve Spurrier and staff could look to find diamonds in the rough and players who can help the varsity fill holes and positional needs.

“That’s what I hope this program will turn into after the first few years,” Lair said. “I know that Clemson has a club team and they use the club team in that manner, finding the most talented athletes and picking them up.”

Football is a very expensive sport to play however, as helmets, pricey leather balls and pad, amongst other necessities take a big hit on a player’s bank account.

According to Lair, the financial burden will need to be met by players, at least in the initial stages of the club.

“Players will have to buy their own pads and of course pay dues,” Lair said. “We hope to raise some money through fund raising to help pay for jerseys, but the university cannot provide any funds for us until we are an established organization for at least a year. The first year will be a difficult one, but a much needed one to get this thing going.”

Currently, the club is trying to gain entrance into the Southern Collegiate Club Football Association, which currently includes North Carolina, Clemson, Radford and Columbia Southern. The team also plans to schedule other area club teams and possibly some Division III programs.

“We’d like to play at least on the Strom playing fields, but it would be ideal to play at Williams-Brice. The games will mostly be on Sundays, so that could happen. We’re looking for an advisor amongst the faculty or staff at USC to volunteer, but if we cannot find one, we have a plan to coach ourselves,” Lair said.

For more information, you can e-mail SOClubFB@mailbox.sc.edu or find the club’s group on

Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu




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